

OCT 10 2006

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October 10, 2006

**VIA FACSIMILE**

To: Examiner Joshua T. Kennedy  
Group Art Unit: 3679  
U.S.P.T.O.

Facsimile No.: (571) 273-8300

From: James E. Howard

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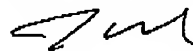
Re: Enclosed Amendment After-Final Rejection Under 37 CFR §1.116  
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/773,573  
Docket No.: P21-164404M/ISI

Dear Examiner Kennedy:

Enclosed for filing is an Amendment in response to the Final Office Action mailed on July 31, 2006, which should place the above-referenced case in condition for allowance.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration on this case.

Very truly yours,



James E. Howard

JEH/geb  
Enclosures  
Total pages transmitted: 10

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re Application of**

Kojima et al.

**Serial No.:** 10/773,573      **Group Art Unit:** 3679  
**Filed:** February 9, 2004      **Examiner:** Joshua T. Kennedy  
**For:** SECURING CLIP

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Box AF  
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 31, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Claims 1-5, 8-9, 14-19, and 21-24 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 17-18 are amended to more clearly define the invention, and claims 12-13 and 20 are canceled. Claims 1, 14, and 23-24 are independent.